

DESIGNATION OF INVENTORS

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TITLE: **FIXING DEVICE FOR A TARPAULIN-LIKE OR CLOTH-LIKE
OBJECT TO BE PROCESSED**

DESCRIPTION

Holding device for a tarpaulin-like or cloth-like object to be processed

The invention relates to a holding device for a tarpaulin-like or cloth-like object to be processed.

From the applicant's WO 99/26506, a device is known for removing eyelets, especially from webs of textile fabric or plastics. This device can also be used to set eyelets in such webs of fabric or plastics.

However, holding the web of textile fabric or plastics during the processing step has proved difficult; firstly, this can result firstly in inaccurate work and secondly, it slows down the process substantially. The object of this invention is thus to provide a device with which tarpaulin-like or cloth-like objects can be held while being processed.

This object is established by providing a means for releasably pressing at least a part of the object to be processed against a processing head connectable with the holding device, said means being releasable from the contact position via an actuating lever, and by providing the holding device with a first hand grip for one of the operator's hands, a second hand grip for the operator's other hand and, preferably within reach of the second hand grip, the actuating lever.

This device makes it possible to securely hold the flat-spread object to be processed, thus reducing processing time and improving the accuracy.

Since the holding device is operated with two hands, its weight is easier to accommodate over an extended period of time, and in addition, the device can be opened via the actuating lever located near one of the hand grips.

According to one version of the invention, the means for releasably applying pressure is engineered as a bent component pretensioned towards the processing head.

During the processing step, this bent component presses the flat-spread object firmly against the processing head and holds it securely in position there. Subsequently, the bent

component is released from the contact position by way of the actuating lever, and the flat-spread object is moved on (to the next eyelet) or else replaced by another flat-spread object.

It is expedient in this case if the bent component consists of wire, especially spring steel wire.

In another version of the invention, the means for releasably applying pressure is engineered as a pressing member that is pretensioned towards the processing head by means of a spring.

Here the device works in a similar manner, except that the pretensioning of the bent component is replaced by the tension of the pressure spring.

It is also to advantage if the means for releasably applying pressure to at least a part of the object to be processed is located preferably on the upper side of the holding device.

It is within the scope of the invention that the processing head is part of a device for the removal and setting of eyelets, and that the object is a tarpaulin provided or to be provided with eyelets.

The main advantages of the invention consist in the provision of an easily operated device which, in combination with a device for the removal and setting of eyelets, allows tarpaulins to be processed substantially faster and hence more economically, irrespective of whether eyelets are being set or removed.

An embodiment of the invention will now be explained by reference to the drawings:

Fig. 1 shows a device according to the invention, having a pretensioned bent component.

Fig. 2 shows a device according to the invention, having a pressing member pretensioned by a spring.

As is evident from Fig. 1 and 2, the device of the invention consists of a body 1 which, on its lower side, has a first hand grip 2 for one of the operator's hands and a second hand grip 3 for the operator's other hand. The body 1 also has an actuating lever 4 which is positioned within reach of the second hand grip 3 and by means of which the means 5 for releasably applying pressure can be released.

This means 5 for releasably applying pressure can, for example, be engineered as a bent component 5a, consisting for instance of spring steel wire, which is pretensioned towards the processing head 6 of a device for removing and setting eyelets, in particular for accurately centering the tarpaulin during punching of holes therein (Fig. 1), or as a pressing member 5b that is pretensioned towards the processing head 6 by a spring 7 (Fig. 2).

In both cases, the tarpaulin-like or cloth-like object 8 is held flat against the processing head 6 during the processing step, and is released again from this contact position when the actuating lever 4 is actuated.